

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LOUREN 00805 01 OF 02 171340Z

43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 IO-14 AID-20 DRC-01

(ISO) W

----- 043400

R 170745Z SEP 74

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2887

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY BRASILLIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

CINCEUR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 LOURENCO MARQUES 0805

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, MZ

SUBJ: ANALYSIS OF ABORTIVE UPRISING IN LOURENCO MARQUES

REF: (A) LOURENCO MARQUES 741 (B) LOURENCO MARQUES 0745

(C) LOURENCO MARQUES 754 (D) LOURENCO MARQUES 771 (E) LISBON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LOUREN 00805 01 OF 02 171340Z

3907

SUMMARY: EVIDENCE SUGGESTS FREE MOZAMBIQUE MOVEMENT'S FIVE-DAY REBELLION AGAINST LUSAKA ACCORD WAS (A) SPONTANEOUS AND UNORGANIZED, DESPITE SOME COUP PLANNING BY OTHER GROUPS; (B) POSSIBLY ENCOURAGED BY APPARENT SYMPATHY OF GENERAL SPINOLA FOR DECOLONIZATION PROCESS; (C) SUPPORTED BY SURPRISING NUMBER OF WHITE RESIDENTS OF LOURENCO MARQUES (PERHAPS ONE-THIRD OF 60,000); AND (D) ONLY POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF SYMPATHY OR RELUCTANCE TO FIGHT FELLOW PORTUGUESE ON PART OF MANY OF GOP SECURITY FORCES. INITIAL THREE DAYS WHEN FMM WAS IN FULL CONTROL AND AFRICANS WERE FEARFUL OF THEIR ACTIONS WAS FOLLOWED BY BLACK BACK-LASH AND LOOTING DIRECTED AT WHITE POPULATION, RESULTING IN SERIOUS CIVIL DISTURBANCES. (DEATH TOLL WAS AT LEAST 70 BLACKS AND PROBABLY 20 WHITES.) THESE DISTURBANCES MAY ACCELERATE EXODUS OF PORTUGUESE, FURTHER AGGRAVATE SICK STATE OF WHITE-DOMINATED MOZAMBIKAN ECONOMY AND INCREASE NEED FOR EXTERNAL AID.

1. WHILE WE HAD BEEN FOREWARNED BY ANTI-FRELIMO COALITION (PCN) LEADERS AND OTHER SOURCES (REFS A, B, C) THAT SOME KIND OF COUP ATTEMPT WAS IN OFFING, ALL INDICATIONS ARE THAT SPECIFIC TIMING AND INITIAL ACTIONS OF FREE MOZA WIQUE MOVEMENT DURING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 6-12 WERE SPONTANEOUS AND UNPLANNED. SOME OF THE INDICATIONS WHICH LEAD US TO THIS CONCLUSION ARE:

(A) DELAY IN TAKING OVER MAIN LOURENCO MARQUES RADIO STATION (RCM). FREE MOVEMENT INSTIGATORS AND SUPPORTERS HAD BEEN RAM-PAGING THROUGHOUT LOURENCO MARQUES DURING NIGHT AND EARLY MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 6-7, ATTACKING NESPAPER NOTICIAS BUILDING, LEFT-WING STUDENTS' ACADEMIC ASSOCIATION, AND PRO-FRELIMO DEMOCRATAS OF MOZAMBIQUE PARTY HEADQUARTERS. HAD THEY BEEN THINKING OF SEIZING RADIO STATION THEN, THEY WOULD HAVE REALIZED THAT SUCH ACTIONS COULD HAVE PROVOKED MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE MEASURES PREVENTING THEM FROM TAKING OVER RCM STATION LATE SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

(B) LACK OF COORDINATION. FOLLOWING TAKEOVER OF RCM STATION, MOVEMENT ATTRACTED SUPPORT OF PCN, MOST OF WHOSE LEADERS CAME DOWN TO LOURENCO MARQUES FROM BEIRA, RATHER THAN ALREADY BEING IN PLACE WHEN COUP ATTEMPT WAS MADE. AS INDICATED
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 LOUREN 00805 01 OF 02 171340Z

REF C, JOANA SIMIAO INFORMED CONGEN OFFICER SEPTEMBER 5 THAT PCN COUP ATTEMPT WOULD TAKE PLACE AFTER REPEAT AFTER FRELIMO-DOMINATED GOVERNMENT ASSUMED POWER BUT BEFORE INDEPENDENCE AND THAT CONSIDERABLE PLANNING FOR COORDINATION REQUIRED. SHE THEN DEPARTED FOR SWAZILAND EN ROUTE TO UN. HER RAPID RETURN FROM SWAZILAND ON SEPTEMBER 9 INDICATES SHE WAS UNAWARE COUP ATTEMPT WAS IMMINENT AND THAT MOVEMENT ACTIONS CAUGHT HER AND HER COLLEAGUES BY SURPRISE.

(C) INFORMATION GIVEN BY SUB-DIRECTOR OF PORTUGUESE INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (REF D). ALTHOUGH SUPPORTER OF MOVEMENT AND THUS INFORMATION IS SUSPECT, SPRANGER INFORMED CONGEN OFFICER MOVEMENT'S TAKE-OVER OF RADIO STATION WAS SPONTANEOUS. HE SAID

GROUP HAD PLANNED A DEMONSTRATION BUT THAT WAS ALL. ONLY AFTER THEY INVADDED RCM BUILDING DID THEY APPEAR TO REALIZE WHAT AN IMPORTANT INSTRUMENT THEY HAD ON THEIR HANDS.

2. BOTH FICO (WHITE SETTLER POLITICAL PARTY) AND PCN SENT DELEGATIONS TO LISBON PRIOR TO LUSAKA AGREEMENT TO TALK WITH GENERAL SPINOLA AND CAME BACK CONVINCED HIS THINKING SUPPORTED THEIRS. SPINOLA'S PERSONAL VIEWS ON DECOLONIZATION BY DEMOCRATIC PROCESS MAY BE RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT NOW APPEARS TO BE DOOMED-TO-FAIL ATTEMPT BY GROUP OF WHITE SETTLERS. THIS EXPLAINS WHY, AFTER MOVEMENT TOOK OVER CONTROL OF RCM RADIO STATION, MOVEMENT REPEATEDLY PLEDGED ALLEGIANCE TO SPINOLA, SAID THEY AWAITED HIS INSTRUCTIONS AND VIEWS WHICH THEY HOPED TO BROADCAST, WHICH EVENTUALLY ONLY CAME INDIRECTLY THROUGH TWO EMISSARIES FROM LISBON. IT WAS ONLY AFTER EMISSARIES MET WITH MOVEMENT LEADERS THAT IT BECAME CLEAR THAT GENERAL SPINOLA WAS POWERLESS TO RENEGOTIATE LUSAKA AGREEMENT, "HATED INSTRUMENT" DEvised BY MFA, MARIO SOARES, AND ALMEIDA SANTOS (LATTER TWO REPEATEDLY ATTACKED VERBALLY ON RCM). AFTER MOVEMENT RELINQUISHED RADIO STATION, SOME PORTUGUESE EXPRESSED SURPRISE TO US THAT RCM WOULD BROADCAST GENERAL SPINOLA'S SPEECH (REF E) LAMBASTING EXTREMISTS OF LEFT AND RIGHT AND DECOLONIZATION THROUGH POWER BEING TRANSFERRED TO UNDEMOCRATIC, ONE-PARTY SYSTEMS--LATTER BEING WHAT PORTUGAL IS IN EFFECT DOING IN MOZAMBIQUE. AS SUGGESTED IN REF E, THEREFORE, GENERAL SPINOLA MAY WELL FEEL HE WAS FORCED TO RENEGE ON PROMISES HE MADE THAT DECOLONIZATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 LOUREN 00805 01 OF 02 171340Z

PROCESS WOULD BE TRULY DEMOCRATIC.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LOUREN 00805 02 OF 02 171043Z

43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 IO-14 AID-20 DRC-01

(ISO) W

----- 043395

R 170745Z SEP 74

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2888

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY BRASILLIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

CINCEUR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 LOURENCO MARQUES 0805

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

3. BLACK BACK-LASH WHICH FOLLOWED IN LOURENCO MARQUES WAS CAUSED PRIMARILY BY REACTION BY AFRICAN POPULATION TO TWO DAYS AND NIGHTS OF TERROR ON PART OF WHITE BANDS AND TO WHAT THEY CONSIDERED ATTEMPT BY REACTIONARY WHITES (MANY THOUGHT JARDIM INVOLVED) TO THWART TRANSFER OF POWER FRELIMO AND "THE PEOPLE." ACCORDING TO ALL REPORTS FROM PERSONS WHO LIVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LOUREN 00805 02 OF 02 171043Z

IN AFRICAN SUBURBS, LOOTING CONCENTRATED ALMOST ENTIRELY ON STORES AND CANTEENS OWNED BY WHITE PORTUGUESE; THOSE OWNED BY INDIANS AND CHINESE WERE LARGELY LEFT ALONE. THIS SUGGESTS THAT AFRICANS WERE REACTING MORE TO HUBRIS OF WHITE MOVEMENT SUPPORTERS THAN TO TRADITIONAL EXPLOITATION BY STORE OWNERS.

4. IT APPEARS CLEAR THAT MOVEMENT ONLY LASTED AS LONG AS IT

DID BECAUSE OF SYMPATHY OR RELUCTANCE TO FIGHT FELLOW PORTUGUESE ON PART OF MANY MEMBERS OF GOP FORCES. FACT THAT MOVEMENT TOOK OVER RADIO STATION IN NAMPULA (CORROBORATED BY HIGH LEVEL SOURCE) WHERE MILITARY HIGH COMMAND LOCATED, INDICATES REGULAR SECURITY FORCES SUPPORT FOR MOVEMENT GREATER THAN GENERALLY SUPPOSED. IT IS THEREFORE NO SURPRISE THAT HIGH COMMISSIONER CRESPO ANNOUNCED THAT MILITARY COMMAND STRUCTURE OF MOZAMBIQUE WOULD BE TOTALLY CHANGED. INCIDENTALLY, LUSAKA ACCORD CHARGES NEW GOVERNMENT WITH SETTING UP NEW POLICE FORCE.

5. MANY LOURENCO MARQUES RESIDENTS, POSSIBLY INCLUDING FREE MOVEMENT LEADERS THEMSELVES, APPEARED SURPRISED BY STRENGTH AND EMOTIONALISM OF WHITE POPULATION SUPPORT. ONE MEETING OF SUPPORTERS CONGEN OFFICER OBSERVED NUMBERED ABOUT 20,000. FEW DAYS PREVIOUSLY, WHOLE CITY WAS FULL OF FRELIMO FLAG WAVING SUPPORTERS, BANNERS, AND SINGING OF "GOD BLESS AFRICA." OVERNIGHT, CITY WAS FULL OF PORTUGUESE FLAGS, BANNERS SAYING "UNITED PEOPLE WILL NOT BE SOLD" AND SINGING OF PATRIOTIC SONG "GRANDOLA." TENSION AND BITTERNESS, BOTH INTERRACIAL AND INTER-WHITE ARE NOT APT DISAPPEAR FOR SOME TIME, ALTHOUGH MANY PORTUGUESE MAY SIMPLY LEAVE MOZAMBIQUE FOR GOOD.

6. ONE IMMEDIATE AND NOTICEABLE EFFECT OF THE FIVE-DAY ABORTIVE UPRISING IS SOBERING EFFECT ON THOSE WHO THOUGHT THAT FRELIMO AND ITS MAIN WHITE SUPPORTERS, THE DEMOCRATAS, COULD WORK ALMOST ANY SORT OF MAGIC. IT MUST BE CLEAR TO ALL, INCLUDING FRELIMO LEADERS AND BLACK POPULATION OF LOURENCO MARQUES, THAT SUPPORT OF LISBON AND OF PORTUGUESE ARMY WILL BE NEEDED FOR SOME TIME, EVEN POSSIBLY AFTER INDEPENDENCE. INCIDENTALLY, WE NOTE THAT LUSAKA ACCORD SAYS NOTHING ONE WAY OR THE OTHER ABOUT HOW LONG PORTUGUESE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 LOUREN 00805 02 OF 02 171043Z

FORCES ARE TO STAY.

7. FINAL UNANSWERED QUESTION IS TO WHAT EXTENT POLITICAL TRAUMA WILL EFFECT THE FUTURE OF THE WHITE-DOMINATED ECONOMY AND EFFORTS BY THE NEW GOVERNMENT TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE IN THE SAGGING ECONOMY. BLACKS WILL BE PREOCCUPIED WITH PROBLEMS OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND INFLATION WHICH THEY WILL EXPECT NEW GOVERNMENT TO SOLVE. SEEMS CLEAR THAT MOZAMBIQUE WILL NEED LARGE SCALE EXTERNAL AID TO RESTORE EQUILIBRIUM TO BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND CONFIDENCE IN ECONOMIC STABILITY.
WALKER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, PARAMILITARY FORCES, INDEPENDENCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LOUREN00805
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740260-0491
From: LOURENCO MARQUES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740939/aaaabhaq.tel
Line Count: 273
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) LOURENCO MARQUES 741 (B) LOURENC, O MARQUES 0745
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 MAY 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <06 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANALYSIS OF ABORTIVE UPRISING IN LOURENCO MARQUES
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PDEV, MZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005